

**HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB**  
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**MINUTES OF MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021 7.30 p.m.**  
**(VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING HOSTED BY CLERK)**

**Present:** Messrs. N. Friswell, J. Milne, J. Olson, C. Puckle, G. Sitton, G. Stanley and B. Travers. Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman)

**District Councillors:** Mr. T. Hogben, Ms. R. Fletcher

**County Councillors:** Dr. N. Dennis, Mr. J. Milne (also attending in his County Councillor role)

**Public:** 1 member of public

**Apologies** DC Dr. D. Skipp, DC Mr. G. Newman

We have been advised that DC Mr. Newman is unwell, and everyone is sending best wishes for his recovery.

**01.07.21 Confirmation of Minutes held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

After minor amendments, the Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Travers.

**02.07.21 Matters Arising**

**04.03.20 The Local Plan**

Forest Neighbourhood Council objected to the inclusion of Rookwood into The Local Plan and is delighted to learn that Rookwood has been deleted from the Plan. HDC has advised, there will be “2-year consultation” for Rookwood to see how this community asset will be used in the future. DC Mr. Hogben mentioned the importance of the consultation wording. He explained there will be restrictions, e.g. public rights of way. Councillors added that it is important that the public is fully consulted throughout the process.

DC Mr. Hogben referred to The Local Plan and the fact that Regulation 19 will be discussed, and a decision taken on 27<sup>th</sup> July. He is predicting protests and a long-drawn-out meeting. Relating to this, NC Mr. Milne said that in his role as a District Councillor, he is pressing for the meeting to be held over 2 days.

DC Mr. Hogben updated Councillors on two issues:

- Drill Hall – The British Legion application is “live” but there is a delay due to the unexpected death of a senior member of the British Legion.
- Running Track – no decision is likely to be made for the next 5 years by which time the track at Christ’s Hospital will be in place. In the meantime, it is probable that the Horsham Track will be “patched up”.

**05.03.21 Bridleway 1670 off Arun Way**

Mrs. Sumpter has visited the site and met with Chesworth Farm Allotment representatives. Mr. Travers explained that The Allotment Society pay an annual fee for an HDC tree inspection, and this includes this Bridleway. FNC Mr. Olson suggested that FNC supports any decisions made by Friends of Chesworth Farm but the point was made that this area does not officially fall within the Chesworth Farm boundary. It appears that the public are confused about ownership of the triangle (that belongs to The Francis Trust) and Muggerridge Field (WSCC).

Whilst DC Mr. Hogben explained that HDC has no intention of approving any Muggerridge Field application, Mr. Milne referred to WSCC new property development

initiative. Relating to The Francis Trust triangle, it is believed that if Muggeridge Field is developed, this too could be subject to a planning application.

**Resolved to ask for the HDC Annual Inspection paperwork and to continue to monitor this issue.**

#### **07.04.21 Street Naming**

At the quarterly meeting with HDC, Mrs. Sumpter will discuss how street names are chosen. Referring to NC Mr. Puckle's research, it is not good practice to name developments after living persons.

#### **03.07.21 Public Forum**

The member of public attended this Meeting to talk about a recent planning application, DC/21/1042 22 Hernbrook Drive is a backland plot that is affecting neighbours in Hernbrook Drive and residents in St. Leonard's Road. The member of public explained that the chalet bungalow will be at the end of her garden and one room will directly overlook her property. She is especially concerned about the possible destruction of wildlife caused by the removal of mature trees and bushes and this includes bats. The member of public was also concerned about the long narrow entrance into this proposed new property and the way in which cars would have to reverse into a busy road.

During discussion, reference was made to similar applications, one of which was refused both by HDC and the Appeal Officer. One backland development in this neighbourhood had been referred to in the application but this Neighbourhood Council cannot see any comparison as the area involved was far larger. (Later in the meeting, this Council discussed its response to 21/1042).

Mrs. Sumpter explained how to "call forward" applications to be heard at HDC Committee level. The member of public confirmed that she had spoken to her District Councillor.

The member of public left the meeting.

#### **02.07.21 (Matters Arising continued)**

##### **09.05.21 Other Business**

Mr. Travers referred to an application, DC/21/1370 that would appear to be connected to the continued use of YMCA site by "We Buy Any Car". However, this application is not yet accessible. It is understood that "We Buy Any Car" is continuing to use the site. Residents in Gorings Mead are very disturbed by this action.

**Resolved Mr. Travers will monitor the application.**

##### **09.05.21 Bennetts Field**

HDC has erected additional posts but not alongside the Scout Hut. A member of the public has forwarded photographs of "dragon's teeth" and gates that have proved successful in another district and Mrs. Sumpter is referring these suggestions to HDC Mrs. Childs.

##### **05.06.21 Children's Centres**

Despite this Neighbourhood Council continuing to raise objections, it appears that WSCC has given formal approval for the closure of two Children's Centres in Horsham. The matter is therefore concluded.

##### **09.06.21 Town Council**

The Neighbourhood Plan is relative to this discussion. This has not yet been signed off and the delay may be due to late feedback from the business forum.

#### 04.07.21 Reports from District and County Councillor representatives

**CC Mr. Milne** explained that this is a quiet period. Mrs. Sumpter raised the issue of children's mental health and asked whether WSCC is prepared to fund additional school staff to help school pupils.

Whilst supporting this issue, CC Mr. Milne did not think that it would be forthcoming.

**Resolved to write to CC Mr. Jay Mercer who is involved with WSCC Children's Committee.**

**CC Dr. Dennis** discussed the grass cutting schedule and residents' dissatisfaction at the current programme. Grass cuts have been reduced to 5 per annum. There has been a problem with the schedule, but another issue is that this is not reactionary to weather (e.g. due to heavy rainfall, grass has grown more quickly during this Summer season and there are areas where road sight lines have been blocked).

**CC Dr. Dennis and DC Mrs. Fletcher** referred to 20 mph road restrictions and that WSCC is "way behind the times". DC Mrs. Fletcher continued to refer to school roads where traffic is restricted and she would like this to be fully considered for this district. CC Dr. Dennis will again raise 20 mph for New Street and planned discussions.

#### 05.07.21 Planning

Forest Neighbourhood Council will submit an objection to DC/21/1042 22 Hernbrook Drive citing the wildlife haven, surface water, overlooking and contrary to policies 32, 33 and 34 of the Horsham District Planning Framework.

21/0346	15 Queensway	Demolition existing 1 storey detached garage & erect of 2 storey side extn & 1 storey rear extn.	No Objection although concerned about overlooking of neighbours
21/0947	Denne View, Kerves Lane	Remodel existing dwelling inc. remove existing front & rear projections & side garage, raising ridge height, roof alterations, addition of first floor and erect two-storey side extn with associated works to form a two-storey dwelling.	N/O
21/0948	36 Pollards Drive	Erection of 1 storey rear extn with roof terrace above, plus pitched roof over existing 2-storey front section and replacement 1-storey side extn.	N/O
21/1037	Swallow Lodge, St Leonards Park	Erection of a single storey front porch extension.	N/O
21/1191	5 Bens Acre	Erection of part two-storey and part single-storey extension to rear of property.	Objection forwarded separately

21/0874	Coolhurst Grange, Doomsday Lane	Conversion of & extension of existing barn to create a dwelling house.	Does this constitute building in the countryside outside of built up boundary?
21/1042	Fairings 22 Hernbrook Drive	Demolition of existing garage and summerhouse. Construction of a chalet bungalow style dwelling to the rear with associated access.	Objection forwarded separately including asking for the application to be called in.
21/1244	23 Brambling Road	Demolition of garage, erection of 2 storey side extn, single-storey rear extn and mono pitched front entrance canopy	N/O

WSCC has approved the installation of 3m pavement at The Forest School.

#### **06.07.21 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £9,928.68, Reserve Account £1,286.23. The Clerk's Honorarium and Expenses have been paid for July.

Relating to The Riverside Walk, the Chair said that Horsham Town Community Partnership had advised that a new bridge over the ditch opposite 2 Bens Acre needed to be installed. She understood that the cost would be in the region of £400 and HTCP was prepared to pay for this. However the Chair reported that HTCP had very little funds and as the bridge would benefit FNC's residents, the Chair asked whether FNC would contribute up to £400 towards the installation. The Chair understood the work would be undertaken mid-August.. It is RESOLVED that FNC will contribute £400 towards this necessary expenditure.

It is anticipated that newsletter will be prepared and distributed during the next months and this will incur expenditure.

#### **07.07.21 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

**Speedwatch** – Mr. Sitton continues to be heavily involved in this project and is currently training in Denne and Trafalgar areas. Regrettably, there is less interest in the St. Leonard's Road area and further volunteers are needed. FNC aims to ask for volunteers in the next newsletter.

Separately, speeding in Kerves Lane was raised. Mr. Sitton said that he would be happy to be involved in any Speedwatch initiative but will make a site visit to ascertain whether the road layout is appropriate.

**Quarterly Meeting – Mrs. Sumpter** commented that Mr. Greg Charman will be leaving HDC and she will hopes that a replacement Neighbourhood Council liaison officer is appointed.

#### **08.07.21 Correspondence**

**QUEENSWAY DAMAGED PAVEMENT** – WSCC is acting. Separately FNC is concerned that within weeks of road repairs being carried out by the Iron Bridge, this has been dug up by another service provider. There can be little control over this planning due to the fact

that Service Providers (e.g. gas, electricity, water) have the legal right to carry out repairs without notification.

**HDC NEWSLETTERS and NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERTS – Covid updates**, parking initiatives and money that is available to boost town centre trade.

**TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ORDERS –**

- Station Road from 6<sup>th</sup> July
- Parsonage Road from 19<sup>th</sup> July
- Sedgwick Lane from 14<sup>th</sup> July

These orders are likely to be in place for up to 18 months

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT**

**DENNE MINUTES**

**NO INCINERATOR FOR HORSHAM Consultation** deadline extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021.

**DRAFT WEST SUSSEX TRANSPORT PLAN 2022-2036** – Webinars are to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> September. NCs Mr. Sitton and Mr. Stanley would like to attend the webinar on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**“IT IS TEARING US APART”** – National newspaper article about housing numbers in West Sussex.

**TRAFALGAR NC** – Morag Worrack is now chair with Martin Boffey in the role of Vice Chairman.

**09.07.21 Any Other Business**

It was agreed that FNC meetings will continue to be held using Zoom for at least the rest of the year and that the December Meeting will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

FNC Mr. Friswell referred to the North Horsham Development. He referred to youth provision and discussions that have taken place between the original developer, Liberty and the current developer, Legal and General. He is disappointed that Legal and General is not prepared to provide any further youth facilities and this includes scouting huts.

FNC Mr. Olson referred to the media reports and these continue to attract additional followers.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.